



**One Hundred Seventeenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

June 28, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

President Biden:

We write to express grave concern over the removal of U.S. Border Patrol Chief Rodney Scott, whose dismissal further undermines our confidence in your Administration's commitment to securing the Southwest Border and addressing the security and humanitarian crisis that continues to unfold on your watch.¹ As the highest-ranking official within the United States Border Patrol (USBP), Chief Scott has been charged with overseeing domestic border security operations between Ports of Entry, including thousands of miles along the Southwest Border.²

Chief Scott's removal could not have come at a worse time for our homeland security, as encounters along the Southwest Border have reached untenable levels. In May 2021, these numbers reached the highest level in 21 years with 180,034 encounters—up 675% compared to May 2020. Many of these individuals are known criminals with arrests of individuals with criminal convictions tripling to at least 6,918 arrests just since January. Nationwide, drug seizures continue to skyrocket—up 18% in May from April. This includes seizures of methamphetamine, which have increased 53%, while seizures of heroin increased 7%, and seizures of fentanyl increased 9%.³

Amidst a border crisis, it is unconscionable to leave the Department of Homeland Security's 20,000 Border Patrol Agents and frontline personnel without consistent senior leadership. Chief Scott's removal is disruptive to the homeland security mission and an abdication of responsibility for our nation's security by the Administration. Further, the adverse impact on already low morale among the ranks of frontline law enforcement will continue to be devastating. According to media reporting, the Administration's border policies are contributing to some USBP Agents considering early retirement while others are reportedly buying unofficial coins that read "U.S. Welcome Patrol."⁴

¹ <https://apnews.com/article/donald-trump-joe-biden-border-patrols-government-and-politics-fl6303ec4f526598ba1625aabcebbbed>

² <https://www.cbp.gov/about/leadership-organization/executive-assistant-commissioners-offices>

³ <https://republicans-homeland.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Startling-Stats-7.0-v2.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-welcome-patrol-how-some-border-agents-are-struggling-with-bidens-policy-shift-2021-05-14/>

Chief Scott was promoted to his position in 2020 following a lifetime of service as a career USBP agent with an impressive record spanning 27 years. Rather than announcing his departure the same day that the Vice President announced her overdue visit to the border, we believe the Vice President would have benefitted by having him by her side in Texas outlining the very real threats and challenges facing the brave men and women of the USBP.

Given the continued surge of migrants and drugs along the Southwest Border and the troubling timing of his dismissal, we request a briefing related to Chief Scott's removal, including the anticipated timing for his permanent replacement and how this will affect border security in both the short and long term.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Should you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

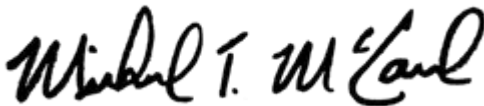
Sincerely,



JOHN KATKO
Ranking Member



MICHAEL GUEST
Vice Ranking Member



MICHAEL T. MCCAUL
Member of Congress



CLAY HIGGINS
Member of Congress



DAN BISHOP
Member of Congress



JEFF VAN DREW
Member of Congress



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